

December 14, 2012

Please print a copy of this newsletter for staff that do not have e-mail.



Designed for all staff and departments who use Accela

A Note From Accela's Project Manager, Brenda Berens



During the site visit on the week of December 3rd, I met with the department leads to review current issues and steps to be completed before “go-live”. We updated the SharePoint trackers to accommodate some of our planning and resolution of issues including what are considered “go-live” critical. The teams are working hard wrapping up conversion testing, OnBase testing, report development, and script development. User Acceptance Testing (UAT) and end-user training will be soon coming to a close. The “go-live” checklist is being refined for the steps to be performed over the “go-live” weekend. The team will be focusing on the items that are “go-live” critical only from this point forward in order to meet the go-live date. Thanks everyone for your efforts! Keep up the momentum! – Brenda

Project Status Report

Critical milestone dates have emerged from our efforts! December 20 is a cut-off for all systems changes. At this point, all of the changes identified from UAT will be known, documented, and only “go-live” critical issues will be addressed in preparation of our “go-live”. January 4 -- this is a significant date for the project as it marks a weekend for a "dress rehearsal". During the dress rehearsal data is converted into a production environment for the first time. From production, we will be completing additional testing to ensure that the environment is stable for use for the upcoming “go-live” ... January 22! Yes, the team is preparing to use the long holiday weekend (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday) to prepare your new system for use on Tuesday January 22. There will be more information about our plans in the newsletters to come.

Another conversion test occurred over the weekend. The preliminary results from the Subject Matter Experts (SME's) indicate our best conversion pass yet. A number of conversion issues have been ironed out this time around. We have useful data that will facilitate ongoing User Acceptance Testing including the development and testing of new reports. We have had a number of demonstrations and performed many tests for moving and storing documents through Accela within the new OnBase electronic document management system. Overall, this part of the system looks production ready. Information Services professionals Jim Anderson and Nick Wemhoff are working with the permit application tracking system (PATs) to complete an integration of the system with OnBase and Accela Automation. Jim and Nick are also closing in on the completion of converting Office Linc documents to OnBase. Avolve's Steve Alexander has completed an integration of Accela Automation database trigger records to ProjectDox.

This is a crucial integration for Planning and the testing of the integration is in progress. Building and Safety's Jerris Nider has completed the configuration and loading of Accela Mobile Office (AMO) on all of the new laptops that the field inspectors will use. Chief Electrical Inspector Ed Bergstraesser says "A couple of little hiccups at first but now I think it is up and going! I can now see permit data and the issues with GIS seem to be cleared up as well. Wireless access through the Verizon card is awesome!" The conversion effort is finally less taxing on the staff and efforts can begin to become much more focused on report writing. The SME team has many things to do; however, report writing will be a major focal point.

Our project has finally reached the point where the remaining weeks will quickly become days. Our "go-live" checklist is continuously being updated and all issues are being carefully tracked in the SharePoint issues tracking system. We will have more details to report in the newsletter as we approach these critical milestone dates.

From the desk of Fred Hoke:

As we prepare for "go-live", now only weeks away, I want to revisit two components that are important to the Development Service Center (DSC). The Accela project has provided the DSC and other departments with a tremendous opportunity for creating customer efficiencies and outstanding customer service. This software is the great enabler that creates momentum for outstanding results. The review of all permit record types and accompanying processes has sparked changes that will keep DSC throughput high. We will give the customers more than they expect and minimize or eliminate mistakes which likely could occur without the best tools for our employees. Great customer service is delivered by friendly, caring employees, and Accela is the major enabler. Intelligent change will unlock the door to growth and excitement in our organization. From this point forward, each process and procedure will be put on trial for its life. We are looking forward to using our new software and to serving our customers.

Amazing Time-lapse of 30-Story Building Constructed In Only 360 Hours

What? A 30-story tall, 183,000-square-foot hotel built in just 360 hours. Just 15 days! I've seen modular homes - never modular hotels. Very interesting. It was erected near the Dongting Lake in the Hunan Province, China, by Broad Group, a Chinese construction company specialized in sustainable architecture. The building uses prefabricated modules (with a +/- 0.2mm precision in the fabrication process) mounted on a steel structure, with diagonal steel bracing. The hotel is so solid that it can resist a 9 magnitude earthquake, as tested by the China Academy of Building Research (check out the enclosed link; there is a scene in which you can see the testing process, at 1:49). They claim this is five times more earthquake-resistant than conventional buildings. The company also says that it is five times more energy efficient, with 6-inch thick glass curtain wall insulation and four-paned windows with built-in shades, a heat recovery system and 3-stage filtration air conditioning process that purifies indoor air to be 20 times purer than the air outside. They even have air quality monitoring in every room which, given the pollution problem in China, seems to be an important selling point there.

Follow this link to see an amazing time-lapse: <http://gizmodo.com/5873962/amazing-timelapse-of-30+story-building-made-in-only-360-hours>



JIM WALKENHORST
PROJECT MANAGER

FRED A. HOKE
PROJECT SPONSOR

Our Accela project newsletter now reaches 378 people!

All Accela project newsletters, presentations, and link to the Lincoln project partners page can be referenced at: lincoln.ne.gov/city/dsc/accela